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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Navaho Legends.* Collected and translated by Washington Matthews, M. D., LL. D., Major U. S. army, ex-president of the American Folk-lore Society, etc. With introduction, notes, illustrations, texts, interlinear translations and melodies. Boston and New York, published for the American Folk-lore Society by Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1897. 8°. viii, 299 pp.

This work by the distinguished Navaho specialist, forming volume V of the publications of the American Folk-lore Society, is probably the best tribal study ever published. It consists of a descriptive and historical account of the tribe, followed by three legends, 65 pages of notes and texts, phonographic transcriptions of native melodies, bibliography, and index.

In the introduction the author gives a concise account of the important tribe of the Navaho living in northern New Mexico and Arizona, their weaving and metal-working, their stock-raising, house-building, home life and ceremonies, and describes them as a notably industrious and intelligent people. The small value of the ordinary negative testimony of superficial observers is shown by his reference to one writer, who states that the Navaho had no knowledge of their origin and apparently no religion, and that their singing was but a succession of grunts, whereas the author proves beyond question that their religious system and traditions are remarkably elaborate and detailed, and asserts that they have "thousands of significant songs or poems" handed down through generations, not to speak of improvised songs, which they are adepts at composing. He states that the Navaho woman is usually songless. While this may be true as to ordinary songs, they certainly have lullabies, as the writer found while sojourning in Navaho camps some five winters ago.

The organization of the Navaho gentes, nearly all of which have geographic names, would seem to indicate that the system in this tribe, as among others of the plains and the extreme west, is based on principles different from those recognized among the timber tribes of the east. The meaning of the popular name *Navaho* is left in doubt, with the probabilities in favor of its derivation from the Spanish *navaja*, a clasp-knife or razor. With

all the plains tribes the gesture sign and frequently the spoken name for both Navaho and Apache signifies "knife whetters."

Of the three legends, all abounding in valuable ethnologic references, the most important is that of the origin of the Navaho, in which it is clearly shown that they are a much mixed race, the result of successive graftings from diverse stocks and languages upon a nucleus of Athapascan origin. The time of the consolidation of this nucleus is given by the Navaho as "seven ages of old men" before 1884, some claiming such an age as a definite period of 102 years, while others estimate it at only 70. The writer's experience has been that Indians age rapidly, and that in aboriginal chronology the shorter period is usually the safer one. Hodge, who has investigated the subject from historical tally dates, makes the event "not earlier than the latter part of the fifteenth century." This is probably near the truth. The legends, with the explanatory notes, contain numerous interesting parallels with custom and myth in other tribes, showing that the line of aboriginal thought and action is almost universally the same. The eleven melodies are an important contribution to the study of primitive music. A bibliography by F. W. Hodge, an authority on the Spanish southwest, adds value to the work.

The typography and general make-up are in keeping with the worth of the volume.

JAMES MOONEY.

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Professor William Z. Ripley is publishing in the *Popular Science Monthly* a sociological study on the Racial Geography of Europe. This is a timely production.

It was Virchow who intimated that before students of anthropology in Germany could be certain regarding the tribal divisions of their prehistoric ancestors they should find out who the modern Germans are or who themselves might be. In all studies of this character, language, nationality, and race are likely to be confounded. Very few writers on this part of anthropology have been careful to discriminate these separate classification concepts. Professor Ripley observes that all over Europe population has been laid down in different strata. In the East the layers are recent and distinct; in the West they have become metamorphosed by the fusing heat of nationality and the pressure of civilization. To change the figure, this great body of population reveals itself in constant motion. Internally, currents and coun-

tercurrents sweep hither and thither, rising and falling, with here and there an eddy where the population is quiescent.

While Professor Ripley disclaims any essential bond between language and nationality, he very wisely intimates that the limits of intelligible speech and common tradition do fix the boundaries of peoples along nearly the same lines. Assimilation in blood often depends on identity of speech, and political frontiers upon blood kinship.

In the second paper of this series the subject of cranial indices is again brought to the front. This time the researches are not based upon the crania furnished by ancient or old cemeteries, but upon the measurements taken from living population.

A Mercator's map of the world shows that in Australia and Melanesia, Hindostan, Arabia, Africa, Scandinavia, the British Isles, Iceland, among the eastern Eskimo, and in eastern Brazil dolicocephaly prevails; in Asia north of the Himalayas and the Chinese boundary, in Europe east of the Atlantic states, and in the mountain tribes of North and South America broad heads, or brachycephaly, prevails. Professor Ripley insists that upon these characteristics are to be based correct deductions with reference to the original races from which the Europeans have been derived by descent.

After the discussion of the cephalic indices, the question of color in the eyes, the hair, and the skin claims attention, and upon this point the author is certain that there is no difference in anatomical structure corresponding to the differences above indicated. A map of the world accompanies the discussion upon this topic, and at once it is seen that within the limits laid down by the author this assertion is true. Four classes of color groups are distinguished—the black, the brown, the yellow, and the white. In comparing color groups with the index groups, the author elaborates the opinion that in Europe there is a central region among the Alps into which oldest populations have been driven and side-tracked. While the distinctions of race are indicated by the proportion of the length to the breadth of the head, climate, economic status, or habits of life are competent to produce changes in the color of the hair and eyes. These questions are minutely tested in the discussion of the population in Black Forest and eastern Switzerland.

The question of stature in its relation to color and indices is discussed in the fourth paper, and a map of the world is pre-

sented in order to exhibit this characteristic among different races. Inasmuch as environment acts directly upon stature through food supply and economic prosperity, results obtained through this agency become modified and fixed by artificial selection, by occupations, and by the nature of employment. A general discussion upon stature in its relation to the original races is supplemented by a minute study of peoples in southwestern Europe, in Brittany, Switzerland, and the Tyrol.

The fifth paper sums up the argument of its predecessors with reference to nationality, language, race, color, stature, and cranial indices. From this survey the author concludes that there is indubitable evidence of at least three distinct races in Europe, each possessed of a history of its own and each contributing something to the common product, population as we see it today. These three races are the Teutonic, the Alpine or Keltic, and the Mediterranean, and for each one of these three the author distinguishes characteristics of the head, face, hair, eyes, stature, and nose. It is proposed to base upon these three original racial types a study of the nationalities of Europe, and the combination of these elements therein, beginning with the French, because this is the only nation in Europe compounded of all three racial elements. In addition, there is living in France today an older population with an unbroken ancestry reaching back to a pre-historic age.

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The application of anthropometry to large bodies of men promises to remove from that science some of the obscurity of which its students have complained. Dr Ridolfo Livi has just published, under the direction of the Italian war department, an interesting study entitled *Antropometria militari*, based upon measurements of Italian recruits from 1859 to 1863, they being 10 percent of the total population of Italy and 26.4 of the total male population. He finds the average height to be 1.645 m., varying by race, altitude, and education, those of the higher levels and classes being the taller. Coloration of eyes and hair varies with stature, blondes being the taller. Dwellers in cities are darker than country people. The cephalic index averages 82.73 and affords a good guide to the different populations, in Piedmont rising to 85.9 and in Sardinia falling to 77.5. Nevertheless, dolichocephaly is more common in individuals of lofty stature.